

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF RUBEN PABON, JR., HONOREE OF NOSOTROS MAGAZINE'S 33RD ANNIVERSARY GALA AWARD BANQUET

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruben Pabon, Jr., who will be honored at the 33rd anniversary Gala Award Banquet of Nosotros Magazine on Saturday, February 21, 2001. The Banquet is an annual event that honors distinguished Hispanic leaders for their important contributions to society. This is an opportune time for today's Hispanic leaders to reflect on the economic, political, and cultural contributions that Hispanics have made to American society.

Ruben Pabon, Jr. was born in New York City and currently resides in New Jersey. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War, rising to the rank of sergeant. After being honorably discharged, he accepted a position with Pan American World Airways, from which he retired in 1987.

Mr. Pabon has continually exhibited a great passion for community service, which began when he joined the Newark Borinquen Lions Club, helping to establish outreach programs for the Hispanic community in Newark, New Jersey. He was later elected President of the Club, and received the Governor's and President's Awards for his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Pabon serves on several housing boards that seek to address the problems faced by Hispanic senior citizens and those in need of affordable housing in Newark. He currently serves as an active member of a task force created by Bergen County Executive Pat Schuber to recommend strategies for the implementation of a multi-cultural center in Bergen County, New Jersey. In addition, Mr. Pabon is treasurer of the Spanish American Cultural Association; a member of the Knights of Columbus; a member of the Hispanic Business and Professional Association; and a volunteer for the Association for Retarded Citizens in Bergen County.

In honoring Ruben Pabon, Jr., Nosotros Magazine is promoting the most important values in American Society today: hard work, dedication, and compassion. Mr. Pabon embodies these American ideals; and, throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to provide others with the opportunity to meet the standard of excellence he has set.

Because of community leaders like Mr. Pabon, the Hispanic community is not only experiencing economic empowerment, but also political strength. Today, we prepare for a future that reflects our years of hard work, and our commitment to each other.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ruben Pabon, Jr. for his invaluable contributions to the Hispanic community.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY R. POER

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry R. Poer, a salon and cosmetology school owner from my district. On January 26, 2001, he was inducted into the National Cosmetology Association's Board of Directors Hall of Renown.

Mr. Poer was recently honored at the International Beauty Show in Long Beach, California. The award acknowledges his many years of contributions to the cosmetology industry. Poer has received numerous other awards and honors during his distinguished career. He has received the Charleston Cosmetologist of the Year and the South Carolina Cosmetologist of the Year honors. He has also served as President of the National Cosmetology Association of South Carolina and Styles Director of the South Carolina Fashion and Education Committee. While a member of Hair America he served as coordinator for the NCA Montage Collection.

Mr. Poer has been a platform artist, lecturer, and consultant for state shows, modeling agencies, and many educational classes. Modern Salon, American Salon, Passion, and Men's Passion have each featured Mr. Poer during his career. Mr. Poer has been inducted into the South Carolina Cosmetology Hall of Fame and served on the Governor's Advisory Board. Students and staff of his cosmetology school have received nine State Hair Styling Championships.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and my colleagues today in paying tribute to an individual whose dedication to his field is extremely noteworthy. Mr. Jerry R. Poer continues to this day to support the growth and advancement of the cosmetology industry and he deserves our praise.

CELEBRATION OF 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH IN EAST CHICAGO

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pleasure and admiration that I congratulate the parishioners of the Sacred Heart Parish in East Chicago, Indiana, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary as a congregation, as well as the 60th anniversary of the opening services in their current sanctuary, on March 4, 2001. The day will begin with a special Mass conducted by Bishop Dale Melczek to be followed by a celebratory luncheon.

Originally known as Mission of Assumption Slovak Parish, Sacred Heart was founded in order to service the spiritual needs of Slovaks

in East Chicago and Whiting, Indiana. Services were held at several churches in the two cities until Father Clement Mlinarovich saw a great need for the Mission in East Chicago. From 1926 to 1941, the Sacred Heart Parish conducted Masses, confessions, and missions at various churches throughout the city.

After many years of relying on other churches' facilities, the dedicated parishioners decided to build their own sanctuary. The beautiful church was dedicated in May 1941 by Bishop John Francis Noll of the Fort Wayne Diocese, with many delighted Slovak priests and lay citizens from around Lake County attending. The Sacred Heart congregation was overjoyed that they finally had their own house of worship. They also took special pride in the building because many of the parishioners volunteered to assist with its construction.

Father Andrew G. Grutka was the first resident pastor at the newly completed church. He preached to the Sacred Heart congregation from 1942 to 1944, after which he became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Gary. Father Louis Duray and Father Milan Bach succeeded Father Grutka and made significant improvements, including beautifying the sanctuary and purchasing a home for the priest. Father Joseph Semancik was later sent to Sacred Heart as the pastor, a position he maintains today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the congregation of Sacred Heart parish in East Chicago, Indiana as they celebrate the 75th anniversary of their founding and the 60th anniversary of the construction of their church. Sacred Heart Parish has undergone many changes from the time it began as the Mission of Assumption Slovak Parish. They have settled in East Chicago, built a beautiful sanctuary, and expanded the congregation to include a variety of ethnic backgrounds. What has remained the same is the dedication, loyalty, and love for their fellow man the parishioners have displayed throughout the parish's many years of service to the community. May God continue to bless the parishioners and the church leaders for many years to come.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS FOR MILITARY RETIREES: LET'S CARRY OUT A CREDIBLE DEMONSTRATION

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation that will address deficiencies in the ongoing demonstration project to assess the viability of a Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) option for military retirees. Since Congress authorized that demonstration in the FY99 Defense Authorization, I have raised concerns that the limits on it would prevent us from

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